

Two S. S. *Telenachus*, Captain Jones, which arrived here this forenoon from Shanghai, via Amoy, reports having seen the *Glenroy* and two French men-of-war at anchor S. W. of Gataia. At 5 p.m. on the 19th, the *Telenachus* encountered a thick fog, and had to come to anchor near the Ninepins, where she remained until 10 a.m. this morning, when the fog lifted and she proceeded on her way, after having been detained 17 hours.

It may be assumed that the proclamation issued by General Graham, summoning Osman Digna to surrender in order to avoid bloodshed, was not regarded by either side as likely to produce any beneficial result. Osman Digna does not belong to the Manchester school of politics, and his reply, if he vouchsafes any, would not be that of peace-at-any-price. A large British force, aided by a workable line of railway, will do more to bring this chief to a better mind than a series of proclamations.

It may interest our readers to learn, on the authority of a correspondent of the *Pioneer*, that Major-General Cameron is rather of the advanced school and is not only rather wedded to his own opinions but is fond of expressing them, and this kind of man is not as a rule a *persona grata* at the Horse Guards. There will probably be a protest against General Cameron, like General Dillon, getting a second tour of service to the detriment of the junior major-generals who will thereby incur the danger of being turned out for want of employment.

We understand that a meeting will be held on Sunday next, the 22nd inst., at 1 o'clock, in the hall of the Roman Catholic Mission House, Pottinger Street, for the purpose of discussing a proposal to organize an institution having for its objects—

- (1). The cultivation and development of natural talent and the intellectual and moral faculties of the members of the institution.
 - (2). The increase and diffusion of knowledge having a direct, immediate, and prospective bearing on commerce and general knowledge.
 - (3). The increase and diffusion of general knowledge.
- The meeting will be held under the direct patronage of Bishop Rainaldi and Father Burghignoni. It is to be trusted that an institution having such laudable objects as the above and will have an unequalled support from the members of the Roman Catholic community.

It is rumoured in Bangkok that the steamer *Bangkok* has been repurchased by the Siam Government, and is destined to run homebound as a mail steamer between Bangkok and Saigon. If this rumour be confirmed, the statement made by us eight days ago that the King of Siam had distinctly refused to entertain the offer made by the Governor of Cochinchina to run a mail line between Saigon and Bangkok, on condition that the Siam Government granted a postal subsidy, will be fully borne out, and will prove that the Government of Siam is possessed not only of spirit but independence. In connection with the Siam postal service, it may be mentioned that a representative of the German Post Office is at present in Bangkok, making arrangements for Siam being included in the countries of the Postal Union. Possibly, the presence of this gentleman has something to do with the refusal of the offer of the Governor of Cochinchina.

The entertainment given by the Committee of the Peoples' Concerts at the Temperance Hall last evening was fully as successful, in every way, as any that have preceded it. The programme, which was published in our issue of the 18th, was decidedly the most taking that has yet been offered by the painstaking and energetic committee of management. To enable the audience the better to take part in the choruses the words of these were printed on the programmes which were distributed, a very useful innovation. Several new names appeared in the list of the performers, amongst them that of a lady whom we hope to hear again shortly. Mrs. Gritton again presided throughout the evening at the piano, and not only gave great satisfaction and pleasure by her solos and accompaniments on that instrument, but also gave a charming rendering of that pretty ballad, 'Cherry Ripe,' and took part in the duet, 'What are the wild waves saying,' which proved one of the most pleasing items of the evening. The character songs were capably worked up and executed by our old friends Messrs. Swales, Gritton and Scott, and proved that considerable trouble had been taken in the 'get ups' as well as in rehearsal. The local allusions in the duet by Messrs. Gritton and Swales proved to be veritable hits and were received with unbounded applause, even by some of those who might be supposed to be among those hard hit. We have not space to refer to all the items in the programme which was carried out without a hitch, many of the items eliciting encores.

The singing competition again brought out a good field of competitors for the four prizes offered. The first prize was won by Mr. Palmer, of the Royal Navy, who sang a most amusing parody upon the well-known melody 'Won't you tell me, Molly Darling.' Mr. Doe, who was awarded second prize, sang an extract from 'Trial by Jury,' playing his own accompaniment and proving his ability as a musician as well as a vocalist. The third prize

fell to Mr. Martin, of the Royal Marines, and the fourth to Mr. Eastwood. Seven or eight competed.

Mr. Swales again made a most efficient Chairman, and at the conclusion of the performance, every one went away apparently well satisfied with what was really a capital evening's entertainment.

In spite of the unpleasant weather during the evening the hall was as full as it could be, the audience comprising over three hundred and fifty, including civilians, and military and naval representatives.

COURT. General Saigo, and suite, were expected to arrive at Tientsin on the 12th inst.

We (N. O. D. News) hear that a few days ago the French deposited thirteen coffins in the island of Pootoo.

It is reported, says the N. O. D. News of the 13th inst., that some of Admiral Courbet's ships recently captured twelve Chinese junks which were laden with arms and ammunition.

THE steamers which have recently arrived at Shanghai from the Yangtze ports report that the Chinese men-of-war have again left Kiang-yi. The Alphabetic gunboats have been in hiding for some time.

It is stated that a White Elephant has been obtained at P'rabang, and will be sent on to Bangkok as speedily as possible. There will doubtless be the usual pompous demonstrations in connection with bringing it to Bangkok, conferring upon it a title and giving it a home in the vicinity of the palace.—*Siam Advertiser*.

IF China possesses many men with public spirit like that exhibited by three of the officials of the Province of Shansi she should never be in the slightest difficulty as regards funds for war purposes. A recent issue of the *Peking Gazette* contains the following:

A Memorial from the acting Governor of Shansi offering a humble tribute of thanks to His Majesty for having graciously permitted him to offer the allowance granted to the Governor of the province for the prevention of assaulting in a modest contribution towards the military expenditure which is now pressing so hard on the State.

He has now the honor to report that applications have been made to him from the Financial Commissioner and the Salt Inspector to the effect that they have been a constant source of grief to them that they have no households that they can break up and realise upon in order to testify in a humble degree their gratitude to His Majesty for the favours of which they have been the recipients, and they now beg that the allowance attached to their respective offices for the maintenance of a salt preventive service may be applied to military expenditure. These allowances amount in the aggregate to something near 10,000 taels. A similar application has been made by the Prefect of Chang-sha Fu, and in submitting the above request to His Majesty the Memorialist would respectfully observe that although the total of something less than 10,000 taels is a considerable sum, it represents as a mere drop of water in a river, the aggregate of annual collections will be sufficient to warrant the sanction of the request which has been made with all sincerity. There are three other prefectures in Hunan, viz.: Tsu-chow, Chang-sha, and Chang-sha, to which similar allowances are granted, but the offer to forego these allowances for the benefit of the State should be the spontaneous act of the authorities concerned. As soon as all the reports in answer to the Memorialist's intimation have been received a general return shall be compiled for submission to His Majesty of the contributions offered.

THE CONVERSATION OF THE SKETCHING CLUB.

Encouraged by the marked success of the Conversations held last year, the Sketching Club again gathered their friends and sympathizers around them last night. As upon the previous occasion, the gathering took place in St. Andrew's Hall, which at an early hour was crowded with guests. Among those present were, their Excellencies the Governor, Admiral Dowell and J. H. Ferguson (Netherlands Minister), Commodore and Mrs. Morant, Bishop Burdon, Hon. W. H. Marsh, the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. T. Jackson, Colonel Graves and Mrs. Graves, Hon. W. Kewick, Hon. F. D. Sassoon, Hon. A. Lister, Mr. Justice Russell, Captain Pearson, (H.B.M.'s Auditor), nearly all the heads of departments, and a large assemblage of the leading residents of the Colony. The pictures catalogued were 104 in number, and, while some were of exceptional excellence, all the exhibits manifested a marked improvement upon the works collected together on the last occasion. It was plainly apparent to all present that the hosts of the evening had, during the interval, not only worked hard at their pleasing art, but had worked 'with accumulating success. Not the least gratifying feature disclosed by a glance at the names of the exhibitors was the fact that a goodly number of them were of ladies; among them being one or two very welcome additions. It is impossible to criticize the works of the fair artists, but we may be permitted to say that amongst the ladies Mrs. J. B. Oughtrie stood most prominent for the number and rare merit of her productions. In the field of oil-painting this lady may be said to have no rival in either sex. Amongst the most conspicuous of her works were two heads of Italian girls and 'A Street Scene in Aberdeen,' and 'A bit on the Road near Stanley Gap.' In the sphere of foliage in water colours Mrs. H. W. Davis stood prominent, her 'Red Leaves' being a superb piece of rich colouring and delicate handling. Of the gentlemen the majority wielded the log brush. In this department Mr. J. B. Oughtrie maintains the vantage

ground he has long held. Of his many and various exhibits, perhaps none surpassed a delicious little bit called 'At the Mahometan Cemetery,' and 'A view of Hongkong,' the latter faithful in portraiture and most effective in colouring. The Hon. J. M. Price contributed a magnificent copy of Correggio's 'Ecce Homo,' and a portrait of General Washington, after Stewart. Messrs F. E. Foster and E. Sandys, R. N., were also well represented by numerous works, the former being, as before, *facile princeps* as to flowers in oil. Colonel Crawford, R.A., contributed some water-colour scenes, painted with characteristic vigour, and Mr. Sandys, prolific in all departments, also exhibited some paintings in water-colours. But amongst this class the palm was given to two contributions, 'A View on the Brown Road,' and 'On Mount Davis,' by Mr. D. E. Caldwell. Of the drawings in black and white those of Mr. Sandys were of pronounced excellence.

During the course of the evening the following musical programme was gone through, the ladies and gentlemen who took part giving much pleasure by their performances:

- 1.—Pianoforte Solo.—March from 'Columbus'—Mrs. O. E. Barlett.
- 2.—Song.—'Oh, how I love my life'—Mrs. O. E. Barlett.
- 3.—Song.—'I will be true to you'—Mrs. O. E. Barlett.
- 4.—Song.—'The Prisoner'—Mrs. O. E. Barlett.
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- 9.—Song.—'The Prisoner'—Mrs. O. E. Barlett.
- 10.—Song.—'The Prisoner'—Mrs. O. E. Barlett.

To the above has to be added another musical item, the performance of which gave great satisfaction. It will be remembered that at the time of St. George's Ball, the accomplished Mons. Savlet composed a grand march entitled the 'St. George's March,' but which was from some reason or other not performed at the Ball. Last night, however, Mons. Savlet played it for the first time in public, just before the departure of the Governor, to the evident satisfaction and pleasure of those present. The Club are certainly much indebted to Mons. Savlet for his kind assistance.

Refreshments were provided in one of the ante-rooms, and the arrangements made in this department of the entertainment were most complete and successful. The conversation was undoubtedly a pronounced and unqualified success, and the Sketching Club deserve the hearty thanks of the foreign community for having afforded it a highly enjoyable entertainment, which was both refined and educating in its influence. The hearty appreciation of the work of the artists shown by the public last night will no doubt stimulate and encourage the members of the Club in their labours, and we therefore hope, for the sake of the general good, that this class of entertainment may be more common to Hongkong than it has hitherto been.

HONGKONG AMATEUR ATHLETIC SPORTS.

The weather promises to be as bright and balmy to-morrow as the most fastidious could desire, and we have, therefore, every belief that the scene on and around our pretty little Cricket Ground will be as bright and gay as is its wont at our athletic gatherings. The events this year number three more than they did last year, but as the obstacles race, which usually occupied about half-an-hour, has been cut out and ordinary flat races have been introduced in its stead, it is probable that the programme will be completed in good time. The Sports will commence at 2 p.m. precisely, and it is intended, if possible, to commence the distribution of prizes at 5.40 p.m. Mr. Sargent will award the prizes to the successful competitors of the races, and, Miss Sharp will present the 'Ladies' Purse' to the Captain of the winning team in the Tug-of-War.

The English and Scotch teams will probably be composed as follows:—

- English:—Mr. O. E. Bowles (Captain), Lieut. G. G. H. D'Aeth, Mr. A. H. Jackson, Mr. E. R. Wood, Mr. H. Hayler, Mr. G. C. Master, Mr. L. Hughes, and Mr. R. K. Leigh.
- Scotch:—Mr. J. H. Stewart-Loch (Captain), Mr. W. Ross, Inspector J. Lindsay, Mr. W. Aitchison, Sgt. Robertson, Major Cochrane, Mr. Rae, and Mr. G. Stewart.

Among the Irish team will probably be Surgeon E. N. Thompson, Lieut. J. O'Connor, Lieut. G. L. King-Harman, Dr. W. W. Pike, and Lieut. C. P. Lloyd.

We have not heard whether or not the German community will be represented.

A correspondent sends us the following '100 Yards'—(1) A. H. Jackson, (2) C. E. Holworthy.

Putting the Shot.—A. H. Jackson.

High Jump.—E. R. Wood.

Quarter Mile.—(1) C. E. Holworthy, (2) G. A. Caldwell.

Putting the Cricket Ball.—C. S. Barff.

Putting the Shot.—A. H. Jackson.

Half Mile Handicap.—(1) C. A. Lamert, (2) H. E. Tomkins.

Hurdles.—(1) E. R. Wood, (2) C. S. Barff, (3) F. Grimble.

Long Jump.—W. Watson Pike.

120 Yards Handicap.—(1) G. Grimble, (2) C. A. Lamert.

Tug-of-War.—Scotch team.

Veterans.—(1) J. J. Francis, (2) H. Foss, (3) J. M. Gordon.

One Mile Flat Race.—(1) C. E. Holworthy, (2) H. E. Tomkins, (3) H. Hayler.

Sack Race.—F. Grimble.

Consolation Race.—A. Danica.

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